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THOUGHTS

Occasion'd by the

BILL

Printed last SESSIONS, for the better Regulating of the

MILITIA:

WITH

A PROPOSAL for RECRUITING
the INFANTRY in Pay.



LONDON:

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THE
PREFACE.



THE Writer pretends not, that the Use to which he assigns the Foot of the National Militia, is the best Use to which such a Body is capable of being apply'd, but the best which in our Circumstances and Situation it can be apply'd to.

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He has read the Plan of a National Militia, and believes, that it would have fitted us at the Restoration ; but he imagines we differ in our Circumstances from those Ancestors, near as much as the Athenians about the Time of the Expedition to Sicily under Alcibiades differ'd from theirs, who fought at Marathon.

Affluence and Delicacy have not extinguished our Courage, but make it not so properly producible ; and it must be own'd, that Courage is not the only Qualification necessary to a Soldier : Military Obedience, and a Constitution patient of Fatigue and Want, enter into that Character, but are not commonly found in our Turn of Life. We acknowledge the Decorum, in pro Patriâ mori, but do not so readily feel the Dulce, as those Ancestors of ours, who had not sweeten'd Life so much.

Nor

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Nor is it only the Circumstances of this Nation, but of France, which forbid us to trust to such a Force as our Ancestors thought sufficient, when she had a Duke of Burgundy for her Neighbour, and before the Evil Genius of Europe had set Richlieu at her Head, who quenching all the Public Spirit of that People in the best of their Blood, planted in their conquer'd Hearts the Glory of their Monarch as its Succedaneum; and eradicating Patriotism and Benevolence, gave them the Love of War for their ruling Passion, by which ever since they are driven enrag'd to disturb the Peace, and to destroy the Liberties of all around them. And as we have constantly obstructed them in that Purpose, we have as much Reason to fear our Fate from them, as Carthage had to be upon her Guard against Rome, after the Bonâ fide of Cato openly concluded for her
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Extirpation in the Senate. Unluckily our Coasts are not so distant ; and we are now let into the Secret, that all our Wooden Walls will not prevent a considerable Force being wasted over in a Tide.

This Discovery makes it evident, that our national Independance is precarious, and therefore every sensible Patriot must think the internal Ballance of Power a subordinate Care. In which Case it is probable, that we shall not only think, that the Military Establishment before the War too weak a Guard, but as there is no Appearance that our Enemies will disarm, abandon the Hopes of ever being secure without a constant Force ; and therefore desist from the stale Policy of making them a Grievance to the People.

*Barracks and Camps would deliver our Regiments with better Credit into
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the Field when called ; and if their Service should be wanted at Home, this Scheme executed, would give us greater Security in them, as Irish Papists, and the disaffected Scotch Clans would be prevented from enlisting.

This Turn of Thought produc'd the following Scheme, which the Writer offers to the Public, not in the Hope that the Wisdom of the Nation should embrace it, but purely to turn the general Attention from the Plausible to the Feasible.



THOUGHTS



THOUGHTS

Occasion'd by the

*BILL printed last Sessions, for
the better Regulating of the
MILITIA; with a Proposal for
Recruiting the Infantry in Pay.*



THE Defence of any Con-
stitution is most properly and
safely committed to those,
who have, *cæteris paribus*, the
greatest Interest in its Conservation:
And as Religion, Liberty and Pro-
perty

erty are the only Blessings worth a People's contending for, and as Religion is out of the Question, and Liberty the universal Birth-right here, the Persons of Property must have the greatest Interest in the Conservation of this Constitution, and therefore are best entitled to the Defence of it.

But the Defence of it cannot safely be committed to Soldiers not expert; and as no Body of Soldiers undisciplin'd ought to be deem'd expert; and as Obedience is the Soul of Discipline, which no Troops untrain'd under Martial Law did ever shew, the Defence of it cannot safely be committed to Troops not train'd under Martial Law.

Hence it seems, that Soldiers of Property, train'd under Martial Law, are the proper Guard of this Realm, and such may be our Guard of Foot, if all the Foot Regiments might draw their
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constant and entire Recruit from a Body cautiously chose by Men of the most considerable Property, and therefore their proper Representative; and not only so, but a Representative Rich in Property, if the Nature of Property were well understood, and theirs attended too: For he who piques himself upon the Esteem he has acquir'd, asserts his Property in it, which gives the strongest Assurance, that he will act bravely; and he who loves his Country, values her Constitution as his own, and will defend it.

And as we must generally trust our Arms to Persons rich only in this sort of Property, we ought to treat them as if we esteem'd them, and nourish their Love of this Constitution, by convincing them, that they are favor'd by it.

With this view our Recruiting Acts have not been fram'd. Men drag'd before their Judges as Criminals, and sold there as Slaves, cannot think themselves either carefs'd or favor'd; and that a brown Musket should immediately charm such into Heros and Patriots, no Arguments *à priori* could have made probable.

I now proceed to my Plan, assuming from the Bill, 38450 to be the Number of the Body I would have established, which I beg Leave to call Militia Foot-Soldiers, as they are destin'd to supersede them.

I then propose, that all unmarried Persons between twenty-one and twenty-seven, not being Freeholders paying to the Land-Tax for 10 *l.* *per Ann.* in *England*, or 3 *l.* in *Wales*, nor Sons of such; nor having Personal

nal Estates of the Value of 200 *l.* nor Sons of Persons having Personal Estates of the Value of 300 *l.* nor renting *Bona fide* 20 *l.* in *England*, or 6 *l.* in *Wales*, *per Ann.* nor being Clergymen, Preachers, or Teachers of qualify'd Congregations, Apothecaries, licensed Doctors or Surgeons; nor Persons educated for the Time being in some School of Literature; nor Apprentices, nor Servants hir'd by the Year, nor menial Servants of any Gentleman paying to the Land-Tax for 100 *l. per Ann.* nor Papists, Quakers, nor Persons laboring under any Disease or Infirmary, may be compelled to serve as Militia Foot-Soldiers.

For the Care and Conduct of which I propose, that each Lord Lieutenant should appoint a Commissary, who should also be the Treasurer.



It will be agreed, that it would be better for the Service, and more agreeable to the Laws and Genius of our People, should all enter voluntarily ; therefore it ought to be consider'd, what are the properest Motives to be offer'd to the Parties concern'd, to excite this Disposition : The Bounty-Money is only a Bait to the Idle and Dissolute ; the Industrious and Frugal, who make the best Soldiers, can give it themselves, and therefore are not so won.

But the Laws of Settlement, and the exclusive By-Laws of Corporations, are the greatest Grievance to the sturdy Ploughman, and active Mechanic ; add to this, that Obligations *in perpetuum* are an Horror to all ; therefore proper Relaxations and Indulgencies in these Instances with a View of Liberty, may fill our Ranks with these Men. I

I therefore propose, that for the Encouragement of such to enter, the following Premiums, by Order of the Lieutenancies, should be fix'd on each Church-door, and be made otherwise public the Week before *Easter*.

To every Volunteer, Freedom immediate from all Parochial Taxes and Offices.

To every Volunteer or Militia Soldier, voluntarily entering into the King's Pay, a Ticket after seven Years Service there, intitling him to reside at Pleasure, and to exercise whatever Art or Trade he is, or shall be Master of, in any Place within the Lieutenancy, with an Exemption from all Parochial Taxes and Offices.

To every Volunteer or Militia Soldier, who after seven Years Service finish'd

nish'd in a Marching Regiment, shall enter and serve seven Years more in one of the Regiments of Foot-Guards, over and above all those Privileges, the Power once to assign the Exemption from Parochial Offices.

At the same Time with the Order to affix the Premiums, I propose, that the Lieutenancy should issue another to the Constables, &c. to prepare in Writing true Lists of all Persons within their several Districts, who, according to the Descriptions, would be compellable to serve, and to deliver the same upon Oath (to be administer'd by a Deputy-Lieutenant, who should attest the same at the Foot of each List close to the Names) to their respective Chief Constables within their own Division, who, having copy'd the same in Books to be prepared for that Purpose, in which the Towns should be register'd Alphabetically, and
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the Returns from each Town kept distinct, should deliver them to the Commissary, who having so copy'd and enter'd the same in his Books, (to the due keeping of which his Oath of Office should bind him) should return the Numbers of the Persons compellable to his Lord-Lieutenant, to be by him certify'd to the Secretary at War, who after having receiv'd the Numbers from each Lieutenancy, should proportionally to them fix the unvarying Quota of each.

This settled, the Name of each Person fairly writ on separate Papers should be prepar'd, and at a general Meeting of the Lieutenancy, to be held constantly on the *Tuesday* after *Whitsunday* (before which the Term for Volunteers to enter should expire) the Number necessary to compleat the Proportion of that Lieutenancy should be drawn by Ballot.

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Then if the Volunteers amount to one 7th Part of it, they should be declared first Soldiers on Duty ; if not to one 7th Part, the Names already drawn should be return'd to the Ballot, to complete them to the 7th Part, and the New-drawn with the Volunteers so declar'd : In like manner, if the Volunteers should exceed the 7th Part, they should Ballot for the Honour.

Then immediately the Volunteers should, in Presence of the Lieutenancy, take the Oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy, and Abjuration, with a Military Oath in some such Terms as these, “ At all Times to obey
 “ the Summons of the Lieutenancy,
 “ and at their Command to enlist
 “ as Soldiers in such Regiments, and
 “ under such Officers, as may by
 “ His Majesty be order'd to receive
 “ them :” After taking which Oaths,
 each

each should receive 5 s. and those declared first Soldiers on Duty, should each also receive a plain Hat with a Cockade, cock'd Soldierly, to be wore constantly on *Sundays*; the rest of the Militia Soldiers should also each receive 5 s. upon their taking the Oaths.

The Ballots finish'd, the Lieutenancy should issue their Orders to the chief Constables, to notify to all the Persons drawn within their respective Divisions their several Lots, summoning them to appear on a certain Day at some Place within their Division to take the Oaths, and to receive their respective Rewards.

And if any Person so drawn shall neglect to appear, or appearing refuse to swear, or swearing refuse to enlist, every such Person in either Case, on Complaint to a Justice of the Peace,

and Summons to appear before him, not appearing, or refusing to swear, or enlist, should be bound over to the next General Quarter Sessions for Appeal.

And if there he shall be judg'd compellable, and still persist, by Order of Court he should be declar'd by the Cryer infamous, intestable, chargeable with double Taxes, Land and Parochial, and incapable of giving a Vote upon any Occasion, and this recorded; these Punishments to remain upon him, till he has serv'd a Year in some Regiment.

But as there may be some Disabilities, which general Laws cannot provide for, it would be proper to lodge in the Sessions a Power to discharge upon Appeal, any Person who should to them appear not properly compellable on an equitable Construction of
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the Law : And in such Case, upon their Order to the chief Constables, and signify'd to the Commissary, he should be entered in their respective Rolls as discharg'd.

The Lieutenants should also be directed, *ex Officio*, to discharge all Persons of infamous Behaviour, and lower than 5 Foot 6 Inches without Shoes ; and at all Times to discharge from their Books, such as they found not proper to serve, and all arriving to 35 Years of Age, after which no Man should be enlisted.

I now proceed to consider, how this Body might recruit the Army, which most certainly it would as essentially well in War as Peace ; yet as these Demands for War are not the Subject of previous Calculation, I shall suppose the Plan not to operate till we are bless'd with Peace ; and then tho' Reduction
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may make all the Regiments fine and compleat, yet as the Basis of this Proposal is, that every Man should be entitled to his Discharge on the Expiration of his stipulated Service, and 7 Years I presume a reasonable Term ; I propose, that the Commissary closing the Muster of every Foot Regiment to *Dec. 24.* in every Year, should publish to every Company, that every Soldier having serv'd in that Regiment 7 Years, and desiring his Discharge, should receive it, in Case the whole Number desiring it exceeded not the 7th Part of the Company ; in Case it did exceed the 7th Part, or the Number immediately below it, it should be noted for Discharge at *Easter*.

The Number wanting to recruit the Regiments, should by the Commanding Officer of each on the Spot, be certify'd to the Secretary at War, from whom

whom each Lord-Lieutenant should receive his Apportionment.

In *Easter* Week should be a General Meeting in every Lieutenancy, at which the Hatmen of each should be order'd to appear, and there be deliver'd as Recruits to the Officers from the Regiments assign'd to receive them, who by rejecting might adjust their Number to their Demand; and that the Hatmen should ever exceed the Demand, I desire it to be observ'd, that tho' I have assum'd 38450 to be the Number rais'd, yet when the Establishment of Foot shall be ascertain'd, it would be desirable, that the Militia should be to the Rank and File of the Foot as 9 to 7 : In Time of War the proportional Difference should be greater.

The Militia would be completed in the same Manner in which it was rais'd, and to the 8th Year after sending the
first

first Recruit, continue in the same Train, when at the *Christmas* Muster, the first Recruits would be entitled to claim their Discharge ; when the Commissary publishing the Liberty to claim it, should remind them of the Advantages they would be entitled to, who chose to serve in the Guards 7 Years longer; and the Number of Volunteers for that Service should be certify'd to the Secretary of War before *Feb. 24*, that the Demands upon the Militia for each Regiment might be settled in Time, that all might complete in *Easter* Week.

With the Officers detach'd to receive the new Levies, the *Emeriti* (if I may so call them) should march, and be subsisted, to the Head Quarters of their respective Lieutenancies, and should be discharged with their whole Mounting and Accoutrements, Belts and Arms alone excepted : Upon their
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Application it should be incumbent on the Lieutenancy Commissaries, to procure from the Sessions their proper Certificates, with which they should each receive 5 s. more, as a Compliment at their Dismission.

From this Time the *Emeriti*, in regard of their Settlement for Relief when wanted, would be consider'd as settled upon the County or Riding, and to have their Pension from the public Stock, till *Chelsea* became open to them, to which all should have their Pretensions in Turn ; but the *Emeriti* of 14 Years Service from the Guards, the Preference.

From all these Privileges, every Soldier should be excluded who should be turned out of his Regiment by Sentence of a Court-Martial; and to all of them, except the Pretensions to *Chelsea*, should those be admitted, who by reason of

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Sickness or disabling Accidents, should be discharg'd from their Regiments, equally as if in them they had serv'd their due Time.

Here finishing my Plan, I desire it may be observ'd, that it regards *England* only, because I have no Knowledge of the Municipal Laws of *Scotland*, yet I do not apprehend there can be any Difficulty in raising their Proportion.

I must own this Project incompatible with the Policy of suffering Marching Foot to continue many Years in the same Quarters abroad : But if it should be thought right, to permit no Foot Regiment to remain longer than three Years, either in *Ireland*, or the *Mediterranean*, this Plan might be adjusted to that Policy, by suspending the Discharges of those Soldiers who serve in those Regiments, till they have completed

pleted 10 Years, allowing that prolong'd Service equal Privilege with the *Emeriti* of 14 Years Service from the Guards.

I forget not our *American* Possessions, but for their Guard I hope a sufficient Body of Marines may be kept at the Peace, the Recruit of which may be left to the Drum ; that Body suits this Service best, because they have the best Chance of being brought home for Recruit and Review.

This Scheme put in Execution by keeping the Regiments full, would prevent Desertion, to which Levy Money is the Lure ; and probably Men having Liberty and such Hopes in Prospect, would be more obedient, and less subject to Mutiny than chance Recruits, especially as a contrary Behaviour would extinguish those Hopes.

Moreover, if the War-Office would carefully settle the Books to be used in every Lieutenancy, proper Answers to pertinent Questions would by the Return of the Post, resolve the *Quantum* of the Military Strength of the Nation, capable to be instantly exerted, which would appear great after this Scheme had been 14 Years in Execution ; for then upon an Emergency, the Regiments in Pay might be completed to their highest Establishment, and the *Emeriti* order'd to the Head Quarters of their respective Lieutenancies, might there be Regimented under such Officers as his Majesty should appoint to command them : They mixing with new Recruits, would soon train them to supply the new Demands, and the Plan proceed *in Perpetuum*.

The Charge of raising 38450 Militia Soldiers would be this, *viz.*

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
To each Man raised 5 s.	9612	10	0
To 5492 Hats each 5 s.	1373	0	0
To Rewards for Commis- faries and Chief Con- stable at 4 s. each Man.	7690	0	0
	<hr/>		
	18675	10	0

This Sum is less than one Half-penny *per l.* nationally, but it must be own'd, that in some Lieutenancies the Charge of raising their *Quota* in this manner, may amount to more than 1 *d.* in the Pound according to the Land-Tax; but each Lieutenancy would bear that with Pleasure, if it might free them from the Charge of raising Militia Foot, as the Law now stands.

As the National Demand for Recruits must be uncertain, and tho' the Charge in the different Lieutenancies will vary according to that Demand,
yet

yet a constant Charge will be incurr'd, tho' there should be no Demand; for the Commissaries and chief Constables must have their Salaries estimated at 4 s. for each Head register'd, and the same Number of Hats must be given annually, which may be charg'd at 9 d. each Head, as every 7th Man will wear one, which will cost 60 d. which divided by 7, gives 9 the nearest Integer; therefore 4 s. 9 d. each Head charg'd for 38450, amounting to 9131 l. 17 s. 6 d. would be paid by the Government proportionally to the several Lieutenancies, for keeping that Body constantly ready to recruit.

And for each Recruit wanted, the Government should pay 15 s. *viz.* for 5 s. paid at Registering, 5 s. at Enlisting, and 5 s. to be paid at his Discharge.

Now to consider this Proposal in the Light of National Frugality: Suppose

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29820 Rank and File, were the Number to be Recruited from this Body, which is in the Proportion to it nearly of 7 to 9: The annual Demand might be 4260.

The annual Charge to the Government would stand thus:

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Ordinary Charge	-	9131	17	6
Extraordinary	-	3195	0	0
		<hr/>		
		12326	17	6

So small a Sum no Person can object to, who thinks the Choice of what Hands we intrust the National Arms to worth any thing, especially when he considers, that 1 *d.* *per* Pound, raises to the Land-Tax in *England* 41458 *l.* and that by the present Practice of establishing Non-Effectives, the Fund for Recruiting, were this Body divided into 710 Companies, of

42 Rank and File each, 710 could be the least Number allotted for that Fund, for which the Government would pay at 8 *d.* *per Diem* each, 8638 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* which deducted from 12326 *l.* 17 *s.* 6 *d.* leaves 3638 *l.* 10 *s.* 10 *d.* the Total Difference.

F I N I S.



